



County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Los Alamos, NM 87544
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County Council – Work Session

*Denise Derkacs, Council Chair; Theresa Cull, Council Vice-Chair,
Melanee Hand, Suzie Havemann, Keith Lepsch,
David Reagor, and Randall Ryti, Councilors*

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers – 1000 Central Avenue

1. OPENING/ROLL CALL

The Council Chair, Denise Derkacs, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Chair Derkacs made opening remarks regarding the meeting procedure.

Ms. Anne Laurent, Deputy County Manager, listed the county employees in attendance via Zoom.

The following Councilors were in attendance:

**Present: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann,
Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti**

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by: All.

3. STATEMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION

Councilor Ryti read the following statement to be included in the minutes: “The matters discussed in the closed sessions of County Council held on January 23, 2024, that began at 5:00 p.m. were limited only to the topics specified in the notice of the closed session, and no action was taken on any matter in the closed session.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Ryti, seconded by Councilor Cull, that Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti

5. BUSINESS

A. Action to Suspend Council Rules for Work Session

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Ryti, that Council suspend their procedural rules for this work session, January 23, 2024, so that formal action may be taken.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti

B. Council Appointment of Probate Judge to Fill Vacancy Resulting from Judge Redondo's Resignation

Mr. Perry Klare spoke.

Public Comment:
None

A motion was made by Councilor Cull, seconded by Councilor Reagor, that Council nominate Perry Klare to fill the position of Probate Judge and appoint Perry Klare to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti

C. Discussion and Possible Action on FY2025 Budget Guidance

Mr. Steven Lynne, County Manager, spoke.
Ms. Helen Perraglio, Administrative Services Director, presented.

Public comment:
Mr. David Hampton spoke.
Ms. Carolyn Cowan spoke.
Mr. Phil Gursky spoke.

A motion was made by Councilor Lepsch, seconded by Councilor Cull, that Council endorse the recommended FY2025 budget guidance presented.

After further discussion, Councilor Lepsch amended his motion.

An amended motion was made by Councilor Lepsch that Council request that the 2025 guidance will not include a .25% GRT increment starting January 1, 2025.

Councilor Cull offered a friendly amendment to delay the incremental increase to 2027. It was accepted.

A second amended motion was made by Councilor Lepsch, seconded by Councilor Cull, that Council endorse the recommendations for the 2025 budget guidance with the change of delaying a .25% GRT increase until FY2027.

The second amended motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 6 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, and Councilor Ryti

No: 1 – Councilor Reagor

D. Discussion of County Facility User Fees and Discounts Provided

Mr. Cory Styron, Community Services Director, presented.
Mr. Steven Lynne, County Manager, spoke.

Public comment:
Ms. Carolyn Cowan spoke.

No action taken.

E. Consideration and Possible Action of 2024 Los Alamos Federal Priorities

Ms. Danielle Duran, Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, presented.

Public comment:
None.

A motion was made by Councilor Ryti, seconded by Councilor Cull, that Council adopt the 2024 Los Alamos Federal Priorities.

The motion passed with the following vote:

Yes: 7 – Councilor Derkacs, Councilor Cull, Councilor Hand, Councilor Havemann, Councilor Lepsch, Councilor Reagor, and Councilor Ryti

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

Denise Derkacs, Council Chair

Attest:

Naomi D. Maestas, County Clerk

Meeting Transcribed by: Allison Collins, Deputy Clerk